Accumulation of e-wastes

1896. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the accumulating electronic wastes which are hazardous to health;

(b) whether Government have developed any system to deal e-wastes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle the e-wastes threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As electronic wastes contain substances such as Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCB), Pol Vinyl Chloride (PVC) etc., they have the potential to cause harm to human health and environment if not handled properly.

(b) and (c) As the collection and recycling of electronic wastes is being done by the informal sector in our country at present, the Government has taken the following steps to deal with and tackle the e-wastes threat:—

- Electronic wastes are included under List A and List B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended from time to time. The import of this waste is therefore regulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and no permission has been granted by the Ministry till date for such imports.
- Subsequent to the organization of a National Workshop on Electronic Waste Management, action has been initiated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for rapid assessment of the e-waste generated in major cities of the country.
- A National Working Group consisting of regulatory agencies, NGOs, Industry Associations, experts and recyclers has also been constituted by CPCB for formulating a strategy and road map for management of electric and electronic wastes in an environmentally sound manner.
- A comprehensive technical guide on "Environmental Management for Information Technology Industry in India" has been published

and circulated widely by the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

- A demonstration project has also been set up by the DIT at the Indian Telephone Industries, Palakkad, Kerala for recovery of copper from Printed Circuit Boards.
- Several workshops and seminars have been organized in different parts of the country by the DIT on Environmental Management in Electronics Industry.

Report on drying water lands

1897. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Report, Inland Water Lands of India-Conservation Priorities by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, the water lands have been drying in 14 States of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Report recommended for having a national policy on this;

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) the details of wet lands in the the country as on 1st January, 1980 and as on 1st January, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Report entitled "Inland Water Lands of India-Conservation Priorities" by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) presents information about wetlands of the size of 2 hectares and above in 72 districts located in 10 States. Wetlands in 33 districts in the studied category are reported to have undergone spatial reduction. However, there is no corroborative evidence of these findings.

(c) and (d) The SACON's report recommends formulation of National Policy on Wetlands. Some of the suggestions made thereon relate to